

Hazard Summary

Needle Stick Injuries

Needle stick injuries are far too common in the health care field. These types of injuries happen when needles accidentally puncture the skin.

The Cases:

- 1. While drawing blood from a patient the needle swung back, stuck in the glove and broke the skin on the workers left index finger.
- 2. While doing an insulin injection the worker pricked their left thumb.

Safe Work Practices:

To prevent needle stick injuries:

- Provide proper orientation and ongoing training. Enforce how to use, disassemble, and dispose of needles, as well as how to prevent injuries;
- Educate your workers. The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control reviews, publishes, and updates guidelines designed to protect workers from exposure to blood-borne disease. Make sure your workers know and use these guidelines;
- Develop safe work practices for your workers to follow when recapping is necessary;
- Provide an effective disposal system. It is necessary to prevent needle stick injuries. Place containers in readily available areas, specifically where needles are used. Replace containers before they are full, and make sure they get sealed, collected and disposed of properly.

The WSCC is committed to safety. For more information on workplace health and safety, call us toll-free or visit our website.

